

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

When I think of Christmas I think of childhood memories of Santa Claus, ornaments, the Chipmunks singing and the sweet taste of peppermint. Life has changed and so has the way we look at it. I hope that each one of you and your families enjoy the holidays, keep safe, help others as much as you can and remember to appreciate all that you have.

We look forward to a wonderful 2005. It promises to have challenges - personal and professional. But the lessons learned in 2004 will more than help us to overcome. We hope to see each of you take steps with your business ventures in 2005 that will elevate you to new levels. Happy Holidays!

-Brenda

FAREWELL TO BILL SCHAEFER

On December 31, we will say farewell to Bill Schaefer, City of Asheville Finance Director who will be retiring after serving eleven years.

On November 18, the Minority Business Commission presented Bill with a beautiful plaque and thanked him for his dedicated advocacy and endless efforts in helping the Office of Minority Affairs increase minority participation with the City of Asheville. Both his support and sense of humor will be greatly missed and we wish him well in all his future endeavors.

UPCOMING TRAINING

CAPITALIZING ON BEING WOMAN AND MINORITY-OWNED

Sponsored by:



- Learn marketing and sales strategies that give power to the woman/minority status.
- Identify and qualify prospects that benefit from using women and minority owned businesses.
- Learn "Rules of Engagement" for doing business with specific establishments and agencies.
- Certifications and registrations... what's necessary, what helps and what is a waste?

Presented by:

Janet Christy – Leverage & Development, LLC

Friday, January 14, 2005

Reuter Center – UNC-Asheville Campus

9 am to 1 pm

(Registration – 8:30 am)

(Lunch 12 pm to 1 pm)

\$30 for certified businesses/\$40 for non-certified

Registration forms can be obtain at:

www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/Minority/

RSVP by: January 7, 2005

MENTOR PROTEGE

Wanted... MENTORS AND PROTEGES!!!!

The Mentor Protégé Program is designed to assist certified minority and women-owned firms with financial and educational training necessary to become successful, profitable and growing businesses.

Protégés increase managerial skills, build wealth and expand networking field. Mentors give one-on-one "hands on" managerial and technical assistance. For more information, please contact the Office of Minority Affairs (828) 250-4121.

"Insightful, supportive, invigorating and caring." – Dee Williams (Dee Williams & Co.) 2003-2004 Protégé

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

THE SMALL BUSINESS GUIDE

The Small Business Guide offers a wide range of services and advertising options that help small and large businesses get their names out to the public.

- One Free additional placement
- Discounts for front page ads
- Free classified space up to 6 lines
- Free photo space
- Free business listings
- And more

For more information, please visit: www.wncsbg.com or call (828) 423-6086.

MINORITY BUSINESS



SLUDER & SON'S EXCAVATION & PAVING, INC.

Sluder and Son's Excavation and Paving, Inc. is owned and operated by Carolyn Sluder. This firm specializes in excavation and paving for residential and commercial projects. Other services include: footings, driveways, septic, waterlines, dump truck hauling and cleaning.

Think you need these services? You can find Sluder and Son's and other certified businesses in the Directory of Certified Minority Businesses on our website: www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/Minority

Asheville~Buncombe

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28 Valley Street
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 250-4120 – Phone

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Brenda G. Mills, Director

FREE BUSINESS RESOURCES

The Small Business Center at A-B Tech Enka Campus now has a resource library that includes tapes, books, video/audio cassettes and computers.

Business owners have free access to information pertaining to writing business plans, marketing strategies, employee management and more!

The A-B Tech Enka Campus is located at 1459 Sand Hill Road, Candler, NC. For more information, please contact (828) 254-1921 Ext. 5850

SUBSCRIBE TO BUNCO ZINE

Buncombe County will introduce the new weekly online magazine (Buncombe eGov) on January 3 2005. This online magazine is created to provide citizens with information about what is happening in local government as well as information on upcoming events, programs and general information pertaining to Buncombe County Government.

Subscribe to Buncombe eGov at:
www.buncombecounty.org

NEW CERTIFICATIONS

- Cable Running, LLC
(Elon, NC)
- Daystar Interpreting & Translating Services
(Asheville, NC)
- Kelley Swofford Roy, Inc.
(Coral Gables, FL)
- Mary's Cleaning Service
(Asheville, NC)



Happy Holidays!